



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region



Linda S. Adams
Agency Secretary

Recipient of the 2001 *Environmental Leadership Award* from Keep California Beautiful

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

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Ms. Katherine Rubin
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
111 North Hope Street, Room 1213
Los Angeles, CA 90012

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED CASTAIC POWER PLANT MAINTENANCE PROJECT (Corps' Project No. 2002-01534-AOA), CASTAIC CREEK/ELDERBERRY FOREBAY (CASTAIC LAKE), CASTAIC, LOS ANGELES COUNTY (File No. 06-199)

Dear Ms. Rubin:

Board staff has reviewed your request on behalf of Castaic Power Plant Maintenance (Applicant) for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the above-referenced project. Your application was deemed complete on October 27, 2006.

I hereby issue an order certifying that any discharge from the referenced project will comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301 (Effluent Limitations), 302 (Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations), 303 (Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans), 306 (National Standards of Performance), and 307 (Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards) of the Clean Water Act, and with other applicable requirements of State law. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003 - 0017 - DWQ, "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges that have received State Water Quality Certification" which requires compliance with all conditions of this Water Quality Certification.

The Applicant shall be liable civilly for any violations of this Certification in accordance with the California Water Code. This Certification does not eliminate the Applicant's responsibility to comply with any other applicable laws, requirements and/or permits.

Should you have questions concerning this Certification action, please contact Valerie Carrillo, Section 401 Program, at (213) 305-2250.

[Original signed by] _____
Jonathan S. Bishop
Executive Officer

November 16, 2006
Date

California Environmental Protection Agency



Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

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ATTACHMENT A

Project Information File No. 06-199

1. Applicant: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
111 North Hope Street, Room 1213
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: (213) 367-0436 Fax: (213) 367-3377
2. Applicant's Agent: Ms. Katherine Rubin
3. Project Name: Castaic Power Plant Maintenance
4. Project Location: Castaic, Los Angeles County
Longitude: 118° 39' 20.48"; Latitude: 34° 35' 14.78"
Longitude: 118° 39' 15.22"; Latitude: 34° 35' 14.78"
Longitude: 118° 39' 7.81"; Latitude: 34° 35' 6.75"
5. Type of Project: Power plant maintenance
6. Project Purpose: To inspect, repair, and maintain the cooling water intake structures that are normally submerged.
7. Project Description: In order to perform the Castaic Power Plant maintenance project, the powerhouse work area within the tailbay that is normally submerged under water needs to be dewatered. Safety precautions need to be installed to protect workers and prevent flooding of the work area inside the tailbay and powerhouse. Department of Water Resources will discontinue the transport of water through the Angeles Tunnel to Castaic Power Plant. At this time, the water within the Elderberry Forebay and Elderberry Tailrace Channel will be drained by gravity to Castaic Lake. The Elderberry Forebay will be lowered to approximately elevation 1470 feet, which is the elevation of the tailrace channel bottom. However, due to past storm events, sediment and silt from the surrounding hillsides may have built up within the tailrace channel and created sand bar barriers preventing the natural drainage within the tailrace.

In order to provide a path for natural gravity drainage of the tailrace

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channel, the sand bar barrier will be notched with the use of an excavator. The excavator will be placed on the soil-cement dike, not within the channel. The sand will be moved to the Elderberry Forebay, where sand will settle to the bottom of the forebay. The length of the notch will be approximately 1,500 feet long and 5 feet wide.

The tailbay must be watered and the water will be pumped into the tailrace channel. In addition, the tailbay must be kept dry from flooding in the event of any storms. Stormwater flowing back in would pose a safety threat to workers and would flood the open gates of the powerhouse, contaminating floodwaters. To prevent this from occurring, a temporary earthen berm, approximately 80 feet long and 10 feet high, will be constructed on the concrete bottom portion of the tailrace channel. The material to be utilized for the earthen berm will be native soil from the surrounding areas. The berm will be completely removed upon project completion. Approximately 380 cubic yards of soil will be utilized to temporarily construct the earthen dam.

Once the earthen berm is constructed and the tailbay is pumped dry, the inspection, maintenance, and any needed repair of the cooling water intakes for all six units, gates, valves and guide rails will take place.

Due to the limited reduced water level outage window, work must commence by November 20, 2006. The following schedule of dates has been established for the proposed project:

November 20th – Sand bar notched
November 26th – Construction of earthen dam
November 28th – Dewatering of the tailbay
November 30th – Tailrace inspection and repairs
December 21st - Completion of repairs
December 23rd – Earthen dam to be removed
December 26th – Movement of water back through the system

8. Federal Agency/Permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
RGP No. 47 (Permit No. 2002-01534-AOA)

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9. Other Required Regulatory Approvals: California Department of Fish and Game Streambed Alteration Agreement
10. California Environmental Quality Act Compliance: The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power determined that the proposed project is categorically exempt. A Notice of Exemption was filed on April 15, 2005.

The proposed project is Categorical Exempt from CEQA pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301 (Existing Facilities).
11. Receiving Water: Castaic Creek/Elderberry Forebay (Castaic Lake) (Hydrologic Unit No. 403.51)
12. Designated Beneficial Uses: MUN*, IND, PROC, AGR, GWR, FRSH, POW, REC-1, REC-2, WARM, WILD, RARE, SPWN

*Conditional beneficial use
13. Impacted Waters of the United States: Lake/Reservoir: 0.227 temporary acres (1580 permanent linear feet)
14. Dredge Volume: None
15. Related Projects Implemented/to be Implemented by the Applicant: Past 5 years:
In the past, maintenance on the bypass channel occurred to clear sediment and debris from the check dams. Due to the heavy storms in 2005 there was an emergency dredging operation that occurred at the Castaic Power Plant tailbay and tailrace.

Next 5 years:
Maintenance work in the bypass channel is expected to occur on an as needed basis over the next five years.

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16. Avoidance/ Minimization Activities:

The Applicant has proposed to implement several Best Management Practices, including, but not limited to, the following:

- All work will be done within the powerhouse and tailbay except for the notching of the sand bar and the construction of the earthen berm.
- All materials will be stored within the powerhouse and not exposed to storm water.
- Work in the tailbay and powerhouse will not be exposed to rain events.
- The sand bar notching and construction of the earthen berm will not be scheduled on rain days.
- Any storage of materials and wastes will be in the powerhouse and not exposed to storm events.
- All materials used for repair and maintenance will be stored within the powerhouse at the end of day.
- There will be a designated parking area that is located away from the watercourse for heavy equipment storage.
- Any fueling or maintenance of heavy equipment will be done in the designated parking areas that are in a contained area in case of a spill, leaks, or weeps from the equipment.
- Sanitary toilets for the construction workers are situated away from the tailrace channel and tailbay on level ground located by the construction trailer and are maintained on a bi-weekly basis.
- All work with mechanized equipment in the tailrace channel will not be scheduled during rain events.
- All work during rain events will be limited to inside the powerhouse and not exposed to the weather.
- All work will take place from mid-October through mid-March, according to Fish and Game guidelines.

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17. Proposed
Compensatory
Mitigation:

The Applicant has not proposed any additional compensatory mitigation, as all impacts associated with the proposed project are temporary. The notching of the sand bar barrier and the construction of the earthen dam will be performed in a section of the tailrace which is composed with a concrete bottom and sides. Any sediment buildup within this area is from erosion throughout surrounding hillsides which has washed into the tailrace during past storm events. Therefore, there will be no permanent impacts to water quality, aquatic life or vegetation.

18. Required
Compensatory
Mitigation:

The Regional Board will require mitigation at a ratio of 2:1 for temporary impacts (0.227 acres) associated with the proposed project. The **0.454 acres** of mitigation area may consist of removal of invasive species, including giant reed (*Arundo donax*), castor bean (*Ricinus communis*) and tamarisk (*Tamarix, sp.*) within the project vicinity.

See *Attachment B, Conditions of Certifications, Additional Conditions* for modifications and additions to the above proposed compensatory mitigation.

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Conditions of Certification File No. 06-199

STANDARD CONDITIONS

Pursuant to §3860 of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations (23 CCR), the following three standard conditions shall apply to this project:

1. This Certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to §13330 of the California Water Code and Article 6 (commencing with 23 CCR §3867).
2. This Certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any activity involving a hydroelectric facility and requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent Certification application was filed pursuant to 23 CCR Subsection 3855(b) and the application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.
3. Certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required pursuant to 23 CCR Chapter 28 and owed by the Applicant.

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

Pursuant to 23 CCR §3859(a), the Applicant shall comply with the following additional conditions:

1. The Applicant shall submit to this Regional Board copies of any other final permits and agreements required for this project, including, but not limited to, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (ACOE) Section 404 Permit and the California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) Streambed Alteration Agreement. **These documents shall be submitted prior to any discharge to waters of the State.**
2. The Applicant shall adhere to the most stringent conditions indicated with either this certification, the CDFG's Streambed Alteration Agreement, or the ACOE Section 404 Permit.
3. The Applicant shall comply with all water quality objectives, prohibitions, and policies set forth in the *Water Quality Control Plan, Los Angeles Region (1994)*.
4. The Avoidance/Minimization activities proposed by the Applicant as described in Attachment A, No. 15, are incorporated as additional conditions herein.

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5. The Applicant and all contractors employed by the Applicant shall have copies of this Certification, the approved maintenance plan, and all other regulatory approvals for this project on site at all times and shall be familiar with all conditions set forth.
6. Fueling, lubrication, maintenance, operation, and storage of vehicles and equipment shall not result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to waters of the State. At no time shall the Applicant use any vehicle or equipment which leaks any substance that may impact water quality. Staging and storage areas for vehicles and equipment shall be located outside of waters of the State.
7. All excavation, construction, or maintenance activities shall follow best management practices to minimize impacts to water quality and beneficial uses. Dust control activities shall be conducted in such a manner that will not produce downstream runoff.
8. No construction material, spoils, debris, or any other substances associated with this project that may adversely impact water quality standards, shall be located in a manner which may result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to waters of the State. Designated spoil and waste areas shall be visually marked prior to any excavation and/or construction activity, and storage of the materials shall be confined to these areas.
9. All waste and/or dredged material removed shall be relocated to a legal point of disposal if applicable. A legal point of disposal is defined as one for which Waste Discharge Requirements have been established by a California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and is in full compliance therewith. Please contact Rodney Nelson, Land Disposal Unit, at (213) 620-6119 for further information.
10. The Applicant shall implement all necessary control measures to prevent the degradation of water quality from the proposed project in order to maintain compliance with the Basin Plan. The discharge shall meet all effluent limitations and toxic and effluent standards established to comply with the applicable water quality standards and other appropriate requirements, including the provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act. This Certification does not authorize the discharge by the applicant for any other activity than specifically described in the 404 Permit.
11. The discharge shall not: a) degrade surface water communities and populations including vertebrate, invertebrate, and plant species; b) promote the breeding of mosquitoes, gnats, black flies, midges, or other pests; c) alter the color, create visual contrast with the natural appearance, nor cause aesthetically undesirable discoloration of the receiving waters; d) cause formation of sludge deposits; or e) adversely affect any designated beneficial uses.

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12. The Applicant shall allow the Regional Board and its authorized representative entry to the premises, including all mitigation sites, to inspect and undertake any activity to determine compliance with this Certification, or as otherwise authorized by the California Water Code.
13. The Applicant shall not conduct any maintenance activities within waters of the State during a rainfall event, or at any period when site conditions would lead to excessive erosion. If any maintenance activities are to be held within five (5) days of a predicted rainfall event, the Applicant shall stage materials necessary to prevent water degradation on site, and shall ensure that all stabilization procedures are completed prior to the rainfall event.
14. If rain is predicted after operations have begun, activities must cease immediately and the site must be stabilized to prevent impacts to water quality, and minimize erosion and runoff from the site.
15. Sediment removal at each phase shall not go beyond the extent as defined in the application packet.
16. The grading, stabilization and re-vegetation will be phased to limit the exposed or working face such that the graded area can be stabilized within 24 hours after the first prediction of rain during the 5-day forecast or within 24 hours after final grading of the phased area.
17. No activities shall involve wet excavations (i.e., no excavations shall occur below the seasonal high water table). A minimum **5-foot** buffer zone shall be maintained above the existing groundwater level. If construction or groundwater dewatering is proposed or anticipated, the Applicant shall file a **Report of Waste Discharge** to this Regional Board and obtain any necessary NPDES permits/Waste Discharge Requirements prior to discharging waste. Sufficient time should be allowed to obtain any such permits (generally 180 days). If groundwater is encountered without the benefit of appropriate permits, the Applicant shall cease all activities in the areas where groundwater is present, file a Report of Waste Discharge to this Regional Board, and obtain any necessary permits prior to discharging waste.
18. All maintenance activities not included in this Certification, and which may require a permit, must be reported to the Regional Board for appropriate permitting. Bank stabilization and grading, as well as any other ground disturbances, are subject to restoration and revegetation requirements, and may require additional Certification action.
19. All surface waters, including ponded waters, shall be diverted away from areas undergoing grading, construction, excavation, vegetation removal, and/or any other activity which may result in a discharge to the receiving water. If surface water diversions are anticipated, the Applicant shall develop and submit a **Surface Water Diversion Plan** (plan) to this Regional Board. The plan shall include the proposed method and duration of diversion activities,

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structure configuration, construction materials, equipment, erosion and sediment controls, and a map or drawing indicating the locations of diversion and discharge points. Contingency measures shall be a part of this plan to address various flow discharge rates. The plan shall be submitted prior to any surface water diversions. If surface flows are present, then upstream and downstream monitoring for the following shall be implemented:

- pH
- temperature
- dissolved oxygen
- turbidity
- total suspended solids(TSS)
- Downstream TSS shall be maintained at ambient levels
- Where natural turbidity is between 0 and 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU), increases shall not exceed 20%. Where natural turbidity is greater than 50 NTU, increases shall not exceed 10%.

Analyses must be performed using approved US Environmental Protection Agency methods, where applicable. These constituents shall be monitored for on a daily basis during the first week of diversion and/or dewatering activities, and then on a weekly basis, thereafter, until the in-stream work is complete.

Results of the analyses shall be submitted to this Regional Board by the 15th day of each subsequent sampling month. A map or drawing indicating the locations of sampling points shall be included with each submittal. Diversion activities shall not result in the degradation of beneficial uses or exceedance of water quality objectives of the receiving waters. Any such violations may result in corrective and/or enforcement actions, including increased monitoring and sample collection.

20. The Applicant shall restore the proposed **0.227** of TEMPORARY IMPACTS to waters of the United States and all other areas of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to waters of the State. Restoration shall include grading of disturbed areas to pre-project contours and conditions. The Applicant shall implement all necessary Best Management Practices to control erosion and runoff from areas associated with this project.
21. The Applicant shall provide COMPENSATORY MITIGATION to offset the proposed temporary impacts within **0.227 acres** waters of the United States by enhancing riparian habitat at a minimum **2:1** area replacement ratio (**0.454 acres**). The enhancement may consist of removal of invasive species, including giant reed (*Arundo donax*), castor bean (*Ricinus communis*) and tamarisk (*Tamarix, sp.*) within the project vicinity. The boundary of the mitigation site shall be clearly identified on a map of suitable quality and shall be defined by latitude and longitude. This information shall be submitted to this Regional Board for approval prior to any disturbance within waters of the United States and shall

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- include copies of any agreements made between the Applicant and a third party organization regarding compensatory mitigation efforts.
22. All open space and mitigation areas shall be placed within a conservation easement to ensure preservation in perpetuity. Documentation of proper easement placement shall be submitted to the Regional Board within one year.
 23. The Applicant shall submit to this Regional Board **Annual Mitigation Monitoring Reports** by **January 1st** of each year for a minimum period of **five (5) years** after planting or until mitigation success has been achieved. The report shall describe in detail all of the project/construction activities performed during the previous year and all restoration and mitigation efforts; including percent survival by plant species and percent cover. This report shall include as a minimum, the following documentation:
 - (a) Color photo documentation of the pre- and post-project and mitigation site conditions;
 - (b) Geographical Positioning System (GPS) coordinates in decimal-degrees format outlining the boundary of the project and mitigation areas;
 - (c) The overall status of project including a detailed schedule of work;
 - (d) Copies of all permits revised as required in Additional Condition 1;
 - (e) Water quality monitoring results for each reach (as required) compiled in an easy to interpret format;
 - (f) A certified Statement of “no net loss” of wetlands associated with this project;
 - (g) Discussion of any monitoring activities and exotic plant control efforts; and
 - (h) A certified Statement from the permittee or his/her representative that all conditions of this Certification have been met.
 24. Prior to any subsequent maintenance activities within the project areas, including clearing, maintenance by-hand, and/or the application of pesticides, the Applicant shall submit to this Regional Board a NOTIFICATION of any such activity. Notification shall include: (a) the proposed schedule; (b) a description of the existing condition/capacity; (c) the area of proposed temporary impact within waters of the State; (c) a description of any existing aquatic resources (e.g., wetland/riparian vegetation); and (d) any proposed compensatory mitigation. Notifications must be submitted a minimum of **three (3) weeks** prior to commencing work activities.

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25. All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Regional Board shall be signed:
- (a) For corporations, by a principal executive officer at least of the level of vice president or his duly authorized representative, if such representative is responsible for the overall operation of the facility from which discharge originates.
 - (b) For a partnership, by a general partner.
 - (c) For a sole proprietorship, by the proprietor.
 - (d) For a municipal, State, or other public facility, by either a principal executive officer, ranking elected official, or other duly authorized employee.

26. Each and any report submitted in accordance with this Certification shall contain the following completed declaration:

“I declare under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who managed the system or those directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Executed on the _____ day of _____ at _____.

(Signature)
(Title)”

27. All communications regarding this project and submitted to this Regional Board shall identify the Project File Number **06-199** Submittals shall be sent to the attention of the 401 Certification Unit.
28. Any modifications of the proposed project may require submittal of a new Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification application and appropriate filing fee.
29. The project shall comply with the local regulations associated with the Regional Board’s **Municipal Stormwater Permit** issued to Los Angeles County and co-permittees under NPDES No. CAS004001 and Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. 01-182. This includes the Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) and all related

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implementing local ordinances and regulations for the control of stormwater pollution from new development and redevelopment. The project shall also comply with all requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) **General Permit** for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity, Order No. 99-08-DWQ. All stormwater treatment systems shall be located outside of any water of the State and shall not be used as a wetland or riparian mitigation credit.

30. Coverage under this Certification may be transferred to the extent the underlying federal permit may legally be transferred and further provided that the Applicant notifies the Executive Officer at least 30 days before the proposed transfer date, and the notice includes a written agreement between the existing and new Applicants containing a specific date of coverage, responsibility for compliance with this Certification, and liability between them.
31. The Applicant or their agents shall report any noncompliance. Any such information shall be provided verbally to the Executive Officer within 24 hours from the time the Applicant becomes aware of the circumstances. A written submission shall also be provided within five days of the time the Applicant becomes aware of the circumstances. The written submission shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times, and if the noncompliance has not been corrected; the anticipated time it is expected to continue and steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. The Executive Officer, or an authorized representative, may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis if the oral report has been received within 24 hours.
32. *Enforcement:*
 - (a) In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this Certification, the violation or threatened violation shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under State law. For purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean Water Act, the applicability of any State law authorizing remedies, penalties, process or sanctions for the violation or threatened violation constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this Certification.
 - (b) In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this Certification, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) or Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) may require the holder of any permit or license subject to this Certification to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the SWRCB deems appropriate, provided that the burden, including costs, of the reports shall be a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports.

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- (c) In response to any violation of the conditions of this Certification, the SWRCB or RWQCB may add to or modify the conditions of this Certification as appropriate to ensure compliance.
33. This Certification shall expire **five (5) years** from date of this Certification. The Applicant shall submit a complete application prior to termination of this Certification if renewal is requested.